

Spring 2007 | VOL 66

Rutgers Turiferass Golf Classic

Photos Courtesy of Fiddlers Elbow Country Club

Inside this issue:

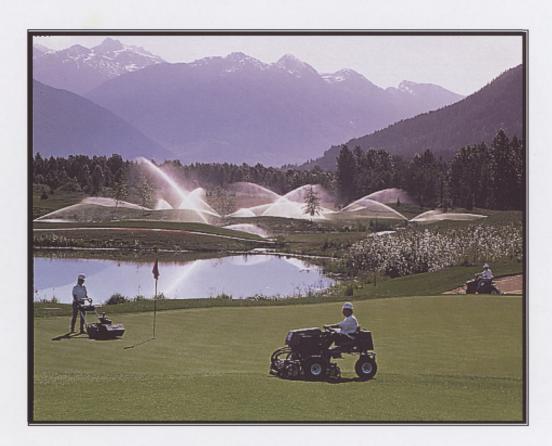
Pictorial Review - Golf Classic

Field Days Registration

Awards Galore

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President's Message

by Chris Carson, NJTA President

On Partnership, Relationships, and Synergy

The momentum continues to build within NJTA, and there is alot of good news to report!

NJTA's Foundation runs an incredibly successful Golf Outing in support of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers, and our 12th edition is detailed in this newsletter. For those of you who were there – and there were 312 golfers (a record) - you know that the day was great, the golf was fun, the camaraderie was present, and a great deal of money was raised for our good friends at Rutgers.

My heartfelt thanks to Shaun Barry and his committee for their continued fine effort in support of this endeavor... they spend hundreds of hours preparing for and running this event, and it ran like a well-oiled machine.

You might not know that the funds generated from The Classic – more than \$100,000 for the second straight year – go directly to Rutgers Turf needs or into an endowment the Foundation maintains for the benefit of the Rutgers program. Every dollar of profit raised goes to support the great work of the Center, but this isn't possible without the generosity of our many sponsors and volunteers, and also NJTA: 25% of the duties of our Executive Director are spent on the Golf Classic, our donation to the cause.

Speaking of our Executive Director, many of you have had the chance to meet Cece Peabody, who has taken the place of our good friend Michelle Rickard. Michelle has returned to her native Colorado for family and business reasons, and she is missed... but Cece has stepped right in and is doing a great job of continuing the excitement at NJTA. Her direction will allow us to continue to grow and improve.

This new relationship is even more valuable because Cece will be shared with a sister organization: the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of NJ. By combining forces, NJTA and GCSANJ strengthen the historic bond that has always been present, and both groups are excited and delighted with our selection. Though Cece will be ED for both groups, both will retain their autonomy and traditions; we fully expect, though, that synergies will develop that will make both groups stronger and that will save us money as well.

Our fledgling Expo partnership with the NJ Landscape Contractors Association bore some good fruit in 2006, and we are working hard to ensure continued growth at Green Expo 2007. We made some significant changes last year, and judging from the many positive comments we received from attendees and vendors, our next conference will be better than ever.

Don't forget that NJTA coordinates the annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days scheduled for July 31 (Golf) and August 1 (Lawn, Landscape, Sports). There is no better way to improve your operation than by visiting with the scientists and support

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Chris Carson
NJTA President

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P.O. Box 340 Milltown, NJ 08850-0340 Phone: (973) 812-6467 Fax: (973) 812-6529 www.njturfgrass.org I'm thrilled to be the new Executive Director for NJTA! In the short time I've been on board (6 weeks at the time of writing this column), I've been privileged to meet and work with the Board and many members. I've transitioned with the outgoing Executive Director, Michelle Rickard and it's easy to see why she will be missed. I was immediately made to feel welcomed, and frankly, I do.

Keep Smiling...

by Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP, NJTA Executive Director



Everyone is always curious about backgrounds and experience so let me share a bit of me. I'm the owner of The Peabody Group, an association management company based in Wayne. I've worked with various associations and foundations over the past fifteen years -- bowling associations, women's golf associations, banking associations, educational foundations, and many more. I earned my Masters of Arts in Teaching at Montclair State University, taught high school English, and as part of my commitment to excellence in the meetings and event management industry, earned my CMP (Certified Meeting Professional) certification in 2005. I've taught continuing education courses in meeting and event planning and love all the logistics and details. Organization and project management skills along with a desire to exceed goals and expectations are my motivation. I look forward to a mutually rewarding relationship with NJTA.

As I applied for this position, I had the feeling it was the perfect spot for me..and my instincts serve me well. While the turfgrass field is new to me, it is exciting to be part of this industry and I'm anxious to learn as much as I can. My goal is to continue to make the goals of NJTA a reality -- to increase membership, to expand the Green Expo, to make as many entities aware of the importance of our green industry. There's tremendous support in a very active Board of Directors and Committees, and together, we will make it all happen.

Feel free to call and introduce yourself...I want to get to know everyone. And...keep smiling... life gets 'greener' every day! I thank you for making me feel a welcomed part of NJTA.

Cece Featody

Don't miss your opportunity to advertise in *Clippings*. Call (973) 812-6467 to learn more.



Anthracnose and Annual Bluegrass Weevil Survey

Dear Superintendent:

I am a member of a Northeastern Turfgrass Regional Research Group (NE 1025) working on a project to improve our current understanding of anthracnose and the annual bluegrass weevil. A critical component of our research effort is to conduct a pre-project survey of golf course superintendents in the region to acquire information regarding the severity and importance of these pests on golf courses.

Your participation in this survey would help us greatly to determine the extent and severity of the anthracnose and annual bluegrass weevil problem in the Northeast. By participating in this survey, you are giving your consent to utilize this information for research purposes only.

The estimated time to complete the survey is only 5 to 10 minutes, so please visit -- www.turf.uconn.edu/ne1025. htm -- today to provide your input about these important pests of annual bluegrass. Results of this survey and research findings from this continuing five year project will be made available via the project's website.

For more information or questions regarding this project, please visit the project website (http://www.nimss.umd.edu/homepages/home.cfm?trackID=7316). Thank you for taking time to complete this survey.

Bruce B. Clarke

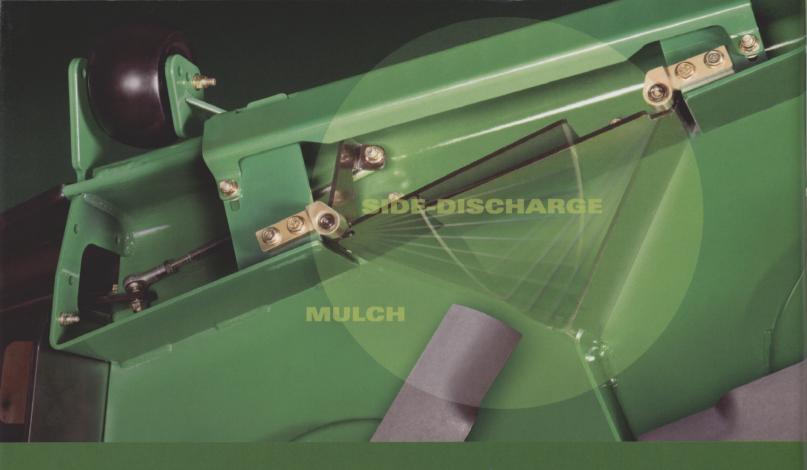
Bruce B. Clarke, Director Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science



Photo courtesy of Dan Olmstead, Cornell







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mower that can do that."



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Mike Dykstra, Dykstra Landscape Services Inc., Grand Haven, Michigan



DEERE



Center for Turfgrass Science Director to Receive Dennis Fenton Graduate Alumni Award

Bruce Clarke, director of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, has been selected as this year's winner of the Dennis Fenton Graduate Alumni Awards at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College). The award is given to an alumnus whose outstanding accomplishments in his or her professional, civic or volunteer work reflects dignity and distinction upon SEBS.

The award was presented to Dr. Clarke by Alan Grossman, president of the Cook College Alumni Association, at the 14th Annual "Celebration of Excellence" Awards Ceremony on April 26, 2007.

Dr. Clarke received his B.S. in forest management from Cook College in 1977 and his Ph.D. in plant pathogy from Rutgers Graduate School in 1982. He has been employed at Rutgers since 1981 and has been director of the Center for Turfgrass Science for 13 years.

In this capacity, he is responsible for providing leadership to foster internationally recognized research, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional education and service programs in support of the turfgrass industry. He is an authority on pest infecting fungi associated with patch diseases of turf and is recognized for his work on the development of integrated disease control strategies to reduce pesticide use.

Dr. Clarke was named first occupant of the Ralph Geiger Chair in Turfgrass Science by the Rutgers University Board of Governors in September, 2005. Other recent honors include being named a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, and he has received the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the New Jersey

Turfgrass Association's Hall of Fame Award, and the Abraham Weisblat Award from SEBS and NJAES.

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Photo of Dr. Bruce Clarke from www.turf.rutgers.edu/faculty





Getting to Know New Board Member Fred Reidel

by Fred Reidel, GSC, NJTA Board Member

I am the Golf Course Superintendent at the Stanton Ridge Golf and Country Club in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey.

I started my career in the golf business as a young man, hustling carts and working on the grounds at the Apple Mountain GC in 1988. Quickly I realized that it was a great field and it was something that I could grow into. I continued on to Copper Hill CC and then to Fiddler's Elbow CC, the site of the Annual Turfgrass Golf Classic. Under the leadership of Rick Krok and Golf Course Superintendent Tom Breiner, I gained the experience and knowledge that allow me to be a good turf manager.

After receiving my degree at Horry Georgetown Technical College, in Golf Course Technology, I moved back to my home state of New Jersey and was employed by Fiddler's Elbow as their Irrigation Technician. In the spring of 1996 I accepted the Assistant Superintendent position at Stanton Ridge GCC, and later was offered the position of Golf Course Superintendent. My main goals at Stanton Ridge GCC have been to reduce our environmental impact and provide championship golfing conditions to our members.

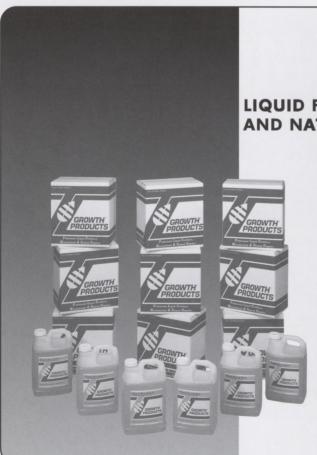
For the last 7 years, I have been able work with Bayer Environmental Science Development Representative Larry Norton, in setting up turfgrass trials for Acclaim, Proxy-Primo, Links, Tartan, Merit and ornamental studies with Armada and Nativo. Helping with the development of these products, and having the research done on my course has been a great experience. I have been on the Education Committee for the GCSANJ and helped represent them in the joint hiring of an Executive Director with the NJTA.

As the father of two young boys, Thomas age 2 and Matthew age 4, my quality time away from work includes bike rides, digging in the sandbox, and pushing them on

the swing set. My wife Margie and I will celebrate our 12th wedding anniversary this August.

We welcome Fred to the NJTA Board of Directors. Thanks for giving of your time!







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Costantino Vetriani, Weilin Huang, Judy Storch, and Bingru Huang have been chosen as the winners of the

2007 School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College) and NIAES Research Excellence Awards.

The awards were presented at the 14th Annual School of Environmental Biological Sciences (SEBS, formerly Cook College) and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) "Celebration of Excellence" Awards Ceremony on April 26, 2007.

Jerome J. Kukor, dean of academic and student programs, presented the awards.

Bingru Huang, professor of plant biology and pathology, was awarded the Research Excellence and Impact Award. This award is presented to a SEBS or NJAES faculty member whose research has had significant impact on industry, government, public policy, or the general public.

Dr. Huang is best known for her creative and productive research in turfgrass stress physiology and for applying basic research information to practical use in turfgrass management. Her innovative approaches have led to invaluable discoveries in turfgrass physiology and novel methods for improving turfgrass germplasm and cultural practices.

Research
Excellence
Honored
at Rutgers
Awards
Ceremony



Her research group recently discovered a grass species adapted to hot soils in geothermal areas. This new species is capable of growing in soil temperatures up to 50 degrees Centigrade, whereas commonly-used turfgrass species in the same genus die at temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Centigrade. This discovery enabled her to identify useful physiological traits and molecular markers for the improvement of heat tolerance in turfgrass and other crops.

Photo of Dr. Bingru Huang from www.turf.rutgers.edu/faculty

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- Insect Identification
- Fungus and Mold Identification
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- Screening for Neotyphodium Endophytes
- ▶ Fungicide Resistance Screening
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- Level 2 Problem Solver (soil/plant suitability test)
- Level 3 Topsoil Evaluation

Greenhouse

Saturated (Organic) Media Extract Analysis: Nutrients, pH, electrical conductivity, inorganic nitrogen

Sport Turf

- Level 1 Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
- Level 2 Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter* content, soil textural class
- Level 3 Sand Root Zone Test

*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

For more information please call us at 732/932-9295, or visit us on the web at: www.rcre.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab.

www.rcre.rutgers.edu/services











2007 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Join Us July 31 & August 1, 2007 for the

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- Current Efforts to Convert Poa Fairways and Greens to Bentgrass
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- Irrigation Management Studies on Bentgrass
- · Advances in Disease, Insect, and Weed Control
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Cece Peabody (973) 812-6467 or Marlene Karasik (732) 932-9400 x339

2007 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days

Golf and Fine Turf Section Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Lawn, Landscape & Sports Field Section Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Hort. Farm II - Ryder's Lane North Brunswick, NJ

Adelphia Research Farm Adelphia, NJ

Registration: 7:30 a.m. Tours Begin:

9:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m.

Lunch: 1:00 p.m. Registration & Trade Show: 7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. Tours Begin: Lunch & Trade Show: 11:00 a.m. SFMANJ Equip. Demo: 12:00 p.m. Tours Resume: 2:00 p.m.

Tours End: 3:00 p.m.

COST:

Association Member *

Non-Member

Before 7/20/07** On-Site

Tours End:

\$40 \$55 \$50 \$65

This includes the following associations: NJTA, SFMANJ, GCSANJ, NJLCA and Sod Growers Assoc. Membership is subject to verification.

**Registration must be received by 7/20/07 to receive the discounted rate.

A separate fee will apply for each day, but those who wish to attend both sections may do so.

Pesticide Recertification and GCSAA Education Credits Offered on Both Days! **DIRECTIONS**

ADELPHIA: From the North - Rt. 18-South to Rt. 537 -West (Freehold Exit), continue for approx. one mile to the Kozlowski Road Exit (before second traffic light). Take the exit for Kozlowski Road and bear left to go to the ramp marked "Kozlowski Road South," follow that ramp onto Kozlowski Road. Continue through three traffic lights. Then continue over the overpass at Route 33 (BUSINESS). After the overpass, Kozlowski Road becomes Halls Mill Road, continue on Halls Mill Road through the traffic light at Willowbrook Road and cross over the overpass for the Route 33 (BYPASS). The Research Center is on the left, approx. 1/4 mile past the overpass for the Route 33 (BYPASS). From the South - NJ Turnpike to Exit 8. Follow Rt. 33 East to Rt. 33 BYPASS (NOT Business 33) to Halls Mill Road. Take exit for Halls Mill Road/Adelphia (before overpass bridge), continue onto Halls Mill Road. Research Farm is approx. 1/4 mile on left.

HORT. FARM II: Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 9. Take Route 18-North to Route 1-South. Take the second Ryder's Lane exit toward Milltown. Move to your left immediately upon entering Ryder's Lane. Turn left at first break in the median and immediately turn right onto Indyk-Engel Way to parking area. ______

Registration* (For on-line registra Name:	Please Check Day(s) Attending: Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field	
Company:		Golf and Fine Turf
Address:		■ NJTA Membership
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:	
E-mail:		
	Method of Payment	
—— Check ——Visa ——	Mastercard ——— AmEx	Amount Enclosed: \$ ————
Account Number:		Exp. Date:
Name on Account:		Security Code:
*All registration fees are non-refundable.		
NJTA Use Only:		
Date Received:	Date Deposited:	CC Auth. #:
Member: NJTA: SFMAN	J: GCSANJ: N.	JLCA: CSGA:

The Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic Makes Research A Winner Once Again!

by Shaun Barry, NJTA Board Member

If we were to use football terms, the Rutgers Turfgrass Golf Classic would be considered "The Super Bowl" of turfgrass research fundraisers. This event has grown from an idea about helping the research program at Rutgers into the very successful fundraiser it is today. Many of the original brainstorming members are still active and have been joined by several dedicated volunteers who share their vision. The Classic lasts one day, but it requires a year-long process of planning meetings and countless phone calls and e-mails. It appears that we have created a wonderful blueprint for a successful fundraiser. Part of the success is the belief that the goal is to help our industry by raising money to use for turfgrass research.

This year was the 12th edition and with the increase in the number of players, we use all three courses at Fiddler's Elbow CC. With 312 golfers we set a record for attendance! Hole and tee signs recognized the contributions made by companies from every part of the industry. Many of our Premier Sponsors are seed companies based on the west coast who send their own people to the Classic. Flying across the country to attend a fundraiser is quite a compliment to the hard work of the entire staff who make up the program at Rutgers. In its infancy, the Classic was just another fundraiser to many people, but now it has become a 'can't miss' experience.

Dr. Bruce Clarke and **Dr. Bill Meyer** are truly responsible for the success of the Classic. **Steve Chirip** and his committee did a great job every year organizing the day but it was Bruce and Bill who got the people to commit funds and people. Their efforts would make any sales manager proud. Behind the scenes is a friendly competition. Each year for the past 4 years a steak dinner rests on the outcome of who raises the greatest amount of research dollars for this event. I'm not sure how it started, but Dr. Meyer is undefeated. These results could change next year, but I have watched how hard it is to say no to Bill. Bruce is confident about 2008 because he believes that he came within \$13,000 of Bill's total commitment. And that's pretty darn close.

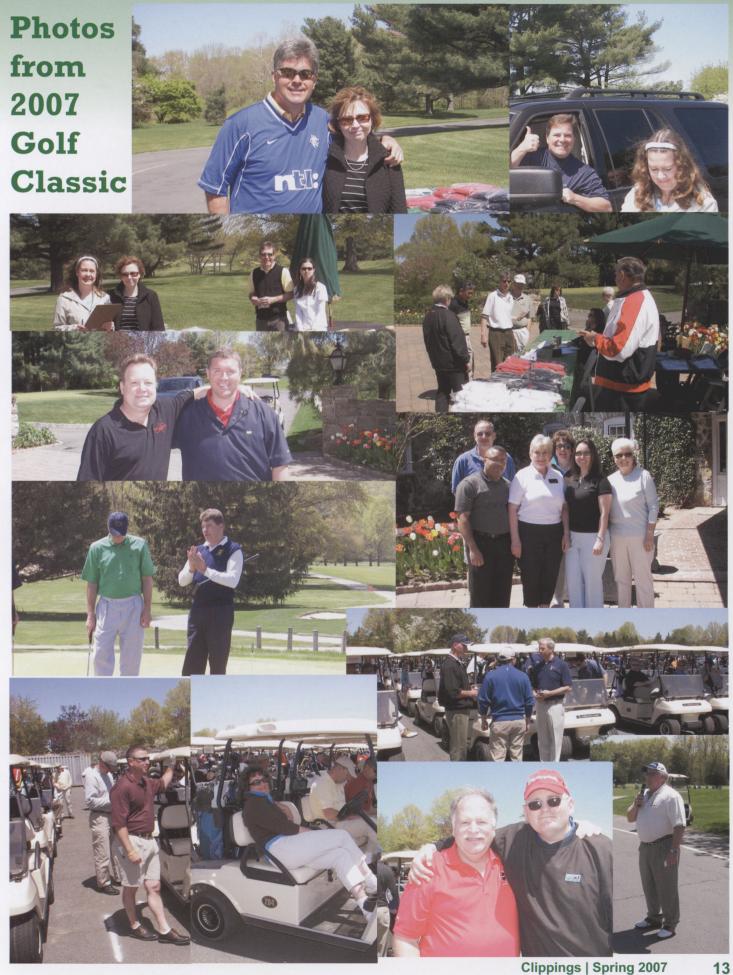
The weather for the day was beautiful and with some new registration changes made by our outgoing Executive Director, **Michelle Rickard**, people never had to get out of their cars until they were walking to the clubhouse for golf and food. In attendance and jumping right into the registration process was the new Executive Director for the NJTA and the GCSANJ. **Cece Peabody** will replace Michelle and she is extremely qualified to lead both organizations. She fit right in with everyone and I know she was happy to see how well the day went.

Dave McGhee has been directly involved with the NJTA and the GCSANJ for most of the years that he has been here in NJ. His passion for our industry and his position as General Manager at Fiddler's Elbow have allowed him to be an integral part of our success. He has arranged for us to secure dates and has kept a watchful eye on all of the important parts of our day. On the golf courses there is a great team responsible for making the day a complete success: Tom Breiner heads up this team of quality superintendents that care for the Forest, Meadow and River courses; Mark Loos, Gary Shupper and Bob Fellner are other members of this team, and whatever they are doing, it's working well because things have never looked better. Even with that, both the Meadow and the River started major renovations the day after our meeting. I can see they are not comfortable resting on their laurels. Neither is our committee.

Having a record number of golfers may have decreased the chances of winning a prize, but every attendee felt like a winner, and every contest and competition had winners. The "Rutgers Cup" is a special event limited to one of the two teams from the premier sponsors (and only if they feel comfortable competing). Unlike the scramble format that all other teams use, this event is one best ball, and it is a gross event. Each player plays their own ball for the whole round and the one lowest gross score on each hole becomes the team's score. Last year **Lebanon Turf** won the inaugural event, but this year the winning team came in from Long Island. The **Maxwell Turf** team was led by **Doug Heron** as he and **Lynn O'Neill**, **Richie Struss and Bob Kamp** combined for an easy win. Their 67 was 3 shots better than the second place team. My bet is they will defend in 2008.

...continued on page 15

Photos courtesy of Shaun Barry





...More Golf Classic

The rest of the field had fun playing a scramble -- this format keeps play moving along nicely. The USGA team of Jim Baird, Jim Snow, Jim Skorulski and Carter Rich were the winners on the Forest Course. Kyle Miller, Bob York, David McCall and Brandon Horvath represented BASF and they edged the GCSANJ team for second place. The third place team was made up of board members from the local superintendent association and it appears that they can play this game. They were Mickey Stachowski, Bill Murray, Roger Stewart and Chris Boyle.

On the Meadow Course, the second team from BASF took first place. This team was comprised of **Ted Huhn**, **John Bresenahan**, **Scott Houston** and **Scott McIntosh**. The **Plant Food** team took second. **Tom Weinert** convinced **Trent Inman** to fly up from Florida to join **Tom Ashfield** and **Greg Nicoll** and they made a strong team. **Charlie Pisano**, **John Pagan**, **John Genovesi** and **Mike Benz** led **Jacklin Seed** to third place.

Rick Krok's team came in first on the River Course. It was actually the Paige Electric team but I don't think the folks from Paige minded. That's because Rick played pretty well for them. A major part of their victory was because he double-eagled the par 5 first hole. The team chose his drive even though he was in the rough. Once his partners had hit safely, he chose a 4 iron. He was 225 yards out and after the ball carried over the water hazard, it took one bounce and went into the hole! What a great achievement! It is much more rare than a hole-in-one (and is the first that I have seen at any of our industry events over the last 29 years). The bad news is that Rick kept playing with that ball instead of putting it directly into his bag. That is the kind of ball you get framed and display proudly to all family and friends and future generations. Rick however left it in one of the water hazards about 3 holes later. He said that he thinks he can find it, but we will have to ask him next year if he had any luck in his search. With or without the ball, nothing can take away from his achievement -- but it does bring up an interesting question. Since a hole-in-one is an eagle and you have to buy everyone a drink, does that mean by making a double-eagle you have to buy them two? What do you think?

The second place team on the River was a blended team from the NJLCA. Nancy Sadlon, Drew Shepherd, Jason Sponzilli and Bill Saracino, Jr. The Joe Flaherty LLC team was third and unfortunately Joe was unable to play. John Shutte, Paul DiGiano, Chris DiProsandro and Scott Kussmar completed this foursome. They may want to keep a winning team together so they may not let Joe play next year.

We had many skill prizes on all three courses. The **Grass Roots** team did not win a prize but **Paul Dotti** played on this team and he won both long drives on the Forest Course. He is such a nice gentlemen that he wanted me to give one of the prizes to somebody else. He thought one win was enough. The other winners were **Tom Ashfield, Jim Devaney, Cindy Mannes, Dirk Smith, Jason Sponzilli** and **Janice Willett.** The closest to the pin winners were **John Genovesi, Keith Haines, Tim Kerwin, Geoff Simril, Dirk Smith, Mickey Stachowski, Bob Welch and Jeff Wetterling.**

The day ended with 312 happy golfers and all parts of our industry were well represented. The Premier sponsors play an enormous part in the success of this event. I hope they know how much Dr. Clarke and Dr. Meyer appreciate their help. In addition to Bill and Bruce, to everyone involved in this day, I say THANK YOU for your generosity! We will continue to see great advances that will help everyone throughout the turfgrass world. Along with the premier sponsors, Paige Electric moved up to an eagle level of sponsorship and many other companies came in as birdie and par sponsors.

Thank again and I hope to see you next year.

Shaun

Note: When you return for the 2008 Golf Classic, you should be aware of an interesting note. Bruce Clarke won the set of golf clubs donated by Ken Kubik at the silent auction. Now that he has a real set of clubs, he's going for the win, so the rest of us may be playing for second place. My guess is if he can't beat Bill in their contest, he's looking to beat him at golf. You're just going to have to return to see how it works out!

Getting to Know New Board Member Matt Sweatlock



Matt is not new to our turfgrass family. He has been a member of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association since the mid 1980's, and the cemetery industry's representative on the Rutgers Turfgrass Advisory Board since 1995. He is the superintendent of Cedar Park Cemetery in Paramus.

Matt began his cemetery career in 1971 as a high school student cutting grass and working on the maintenance crew. A graduate of East Stroudsburg State College, Matt taught biology & freshman science for a year before returning to the cemetery as a full time employee. In 1994 he was promoted to superintendent. He was elected to the board of the New Jersey Cemetery

Association in 1989, served as treasurer for 8 years, vice president for 4 years and as president for 3 years. Matt has been involved with the NJCA's legislative committee since 1994 providing testimony and hands-on-knowledge in Trenton. He volunteered his time on numerous local political campaigns including treasuring an Assembly campaign in 2005. He also served as chairman of the Planning Board in Garfield, NJ.

An employee with proper training has a better understanding of duties and responsibilities. Likewise, a properly educated consumer, has a better understanding of the products and services that a company has to offer. Matt has attended many educational programs offered by the NJTA, and is happy to be given the opportunity to serve on the board.

He resides in Washington Twp (in Bergen County) with his wife Pam and two daughters. ■

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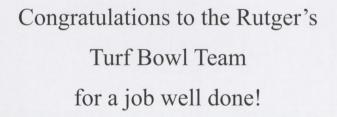
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RUTGERS TURF BOWL TEAM!

The Rutgers Turf Bowl Team, composed of Tim Sibicky, Christopher Skvir, Justin Hughes, Danielle Skoba, and Zane Radenbush, won a 9th place finish in the 2007 Turf Bowl Competition on February 23, 2007 at the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA. The Rutgers Undergraduate Team competed against 80 other teams from colleges and universities throughout North America. The competition was intense and tested the student's knowledge of all facets of turfgrass science including pest biology and control, physilogy, species identification, soil science, and turfgrass management. The competition lasted three hours and the teams were recognized later in the conference by the organizing committee headed by Dr. Leah Brilman. Drs. Richard Hurley and Bruce Clarke, Rutgers Turf Club Advisors, helped prepare the team last fall by conducting a special problems course in turfgrass science designed to provide a practical review of key subjects in turfgrass science.





Left to Right: Christopher Skvir, Danielle Skoba, Justin Hughes, Tim Sibicky, and Zane Radenbush.



Dr. Bruce Clarke is on the left and Dr. Richard Hurley is on the right.

Association New Jersey Turfgrass

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Weed Control at Cool-season Turfgrass Establishment

Applied Turfgrass Research from Rutgers, the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

Use of Mesotrione Herbicide for Weed Control at Cool-season Turfgrass Establishment

Mesotrione (no trade name in turfgrass yet) is a new herbicide under development by Syngenta for weed control in cool season turfgrass. Mesotrione has both preemergence and postemergence herbicide activity and is currently registered for use in field and sweet corn.

Numerous research studies have demonstrated that established cool-season turfgrasses are tolerant to mesotrione including Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue. Mesotrione has been reported to control a broad array of weed species including large crabgrass. smooth crabgrass, henbit, chickweed and yellow woodsorrell. Mesotrione will also effectively control weeds that may be problematic in spring newly seeded turfgrass such as common lambsquarters. However, it is not well understood if mesotrione can be safely used on newly seeded or seedling cool-season turfgrass species.

We conducted Field studies in the spring and fall of 2006 and 2007 to evaluate the response of newly seeded and seedling Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue to mesotrione applied at planting (PRE), and at two (2 WAE) and four (4 WAE) weeks after turfgrass emergence. Spring and fall studies were conducted at the Rutgers Plant Science Research Center in Adelphia, NJ. An additional study was conducted in the fall of 2007 at Experiments were conducted at Horticultural Research Farm II, in North Brunswick, NJ.

Mesotrione was applied at rates ranging from 0.13 to 0.5 lbs ai/A using small plot spraying equipment. In the spring experiments, Tupersan, Dimension, and Drive treatments were included as standard comparisons. Turfgrass chlorosis was rated on a percent scale where 0 equaled no chlorosis and 100 equaled complete chlorosis. Turfgrass and weed cover were rated visually on a percent scale.

Detailed data analysis is still being conducted but overall mesotrione caused minimal turfgrass cover reductions applied PRE. However, 2 WAE, and 4 WAE applications at high mesotrione rates tended to cause chlorosis on both tall fescue and perennial ryegrass and in some experiments significant stand reductions especially on Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Therefore, mesotrione was safest when used as a PRE application rather than a postemergence application on seedling turfgrasses.

Clippings | Spring 2007 www.njturfgrass.org

➤ by Stephen E. Hart, Patrick McCullough, and Carrie Mansue



Applied Turfgrass Research from Rutgers, the State University, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association

In fall studies control of winter annual broadleaf weeds such as chickweed and henbit were nearly complete with all mesotrione treatments. Annual bluegrass was present at both fall studies at Adelphia. Mesotrione exhibited potential to selectively control annual bluegrass applied PRE especially at the 0.25 and 0.5 lb ai/A application rate. However, significant annual bluegrass control was not observed with postemergence applications except when applied at 0.5 lb ai/A. The most complete annual bluegrass control was observed with PRE applications followed by sequential applications 4 WAE at 0.25 and 0.5 lb ai/A.

The results of these studies, as well as other research conducted at other Universities suggests that mesotrione will have a significant impact in the cultivated sod production industry due to its ability to be used safely on newly seeded turfgrass. This new compound should also benefit athletic field managers because turfgrass can be safely overseeded into fields previously treated with mesotrione for weed control.

Editor's Note:

Each year, NJTA and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foudation work to raise funds for Rutgers University. These funds are used to provide scholarships for students interested in pursuing careers within the green industry and to help fund the many research projects that are conducted at Rutgers.

For more information or additional research reports and abstracts, please visit the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science web site at:

www.turf.rutgers.edu

Presidents Message - continued from page 3

staff of the finest turfgrass research institution in the world. Dr. Bruce Clarke and the entire Center for Turfgrass Science are partners in all that we do in turf in New Jersey, and they go out of their way to give us the science and support we need to do our jobs. Your attendance will show them that you appreciate what they do for us, and you are sure to learn some valuable information as well.

I hope you have a great season, and I'll see you at the Field Days!

Chris

Dennis Fenton Award - continued from page 7

Dr. Clarke is a frequent speaker at educational conferences throughout the United States and has presented his research on turfgrass pathology and has authored numerous articles for professional journals and trade magazines.

The Dennis Fenton Award was created by Cook College Alumni Association in 2003 to honor alumni from the Rutgers graduate programs offered on the Cook campus.

Congratulations Bruce!

YEA! That's more than a cheer -- it's the name of a new Web site Project EverGreen is recommending to anyone who enjoys working in the yard.

YEA! is short for "Yard Enthusiasts of America" and if you enjoy browsing for useful lawn and garden information, here's the web address you should enter:

www.yardenthusiasts.com

The site is a great way to get information on how to make the green space around your home even greener and more pleasant for you and your family.

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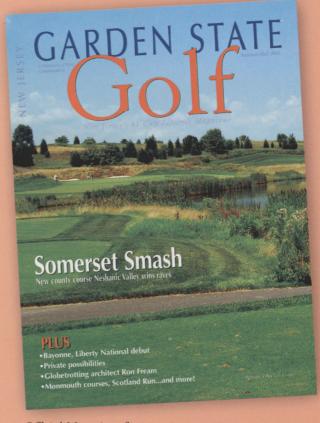
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